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With the Colors

Dec. 18,
1942

From Camp Pickett, Virginia, George S. McColley, technician fifth class, in a letter to his father, Attorney George W. McColley, writes interestingly of places and things he saw on a week end trip to Richmond, the capital of that state.

"It has snowed and rained here intermittently for the last day or two making the weather very disagreeable. I went to Richmond last week end. It is not a large enough town to have the facilities to handle large crowds such as those created by the great influx of soldiers and sailors of a week end. It is about three times the size of Terre Haute," he wrote.

"I believe there were almost as many sailors there as soldiers. It is almost impossible to rent hotel rooms. I planned to do a little Christmas shopping but wound up by buying some Christmas cards. There were such immense crowds on the streets and in the stores it was almost impossible to do much buying. The towns and cities of the east seem to be much more congested anyway than those of middle west.

"Sunday (November 30), it was very quiet in keeping with the conservativeness of most Virginia localities. I went out to the old church where Patrick Henry made his famous speech, 'Give me liberty, or give me death,' etc. It was built in 1741 and I was told that Lord Halifax spoke there last year at the 200th anniversary celebration.

"It is an old frame building and its grounds cover a city block. Around the church in these grounds is a very old cemetery, which hasn't been used for burial purposes for many decades. Most of those buried there were buried before the Revolutionary war or when the nation was very young.

"Several famous people are buried there, among them John Wythe, the first signer of the constitution, and a more recent burial, Edgar Allen Poe's mother. The building is in a pretty good state of preservation, although it shows its great age. I attended a part of a Sunday school service, which was in progress much as in any other church. The pews are the old style enclosed pews with a gate at the end of each.

"It is surprising how an old wooden building could withstand all these years. It evidently has been allowed to retain all its original appearance. There are many very old buildings in Richmond, many very old churches, which are interesting because of their quaint, peculiar architecture and oldness.

"The capitol is also an interesting building. You are probably familiar with the massive columns from seeing pictures of it. There are dozens of these interesting historical places in Richmond, which is hallowed with a rich historical tradition, but one cannot see a great deal in one week end. It seems as if it takes a first visit to a town to get oriented to it, or learn one's way around. The next time one can see more.

"I am planning to go to Washington week end after next if possible. They say conditions are just as crowded there due to the great influx of war workers, etc."

His address is Corporal George S. McColley, Headquarters Company, Thirty-second Armored regiment, A. P. O. 253, Camp Pickett, Virginia.

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Florent Joseph Schuch, son of J. A. Schuch of Route Five, Newton, is now enrolled in the United States Navy Pre-Flight School at Athens, Georgia. He completed CAA primary training at Carbondale.

Intent on producing the finest, toughest, smartest fliers in the world,

the Navy is devoting twelve weeks of its twelve month training program to the job of converting average young Americans into splendid physical specimens. At the Pre-Flight school, the Naval aviation cadet goes through a daily routine of strenuous sports and exercises planned to develop teamwork, split-second timing, muscular co-ordination, and the indomitable will to win.

With physical conditioning the future officer gets a balanced program of academic and military training—the principles of aerodynamics and aerial navigation, recognition of enemy aircraft and warships, and the essentials of naval leadership.

Completing the three-month course, he goes on to other Navy flight centers for nine months of progressively intensive training as a flyer and combat pilot before being sent into action with the fleet.

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Mr. and Mrs. James Picquet of Sainte Marie recently received a letter from their son, James Picquet of the United States Navy, serving with the Naval Air Force somewhere in the Southwest Pacific.

The letter, written on December 1, stated in part that he had been advanced in rating in November to Aviation Machinist's Mate, second class.

James attended trade school at the Naval Air Station, at Pensacola, Florida. After completing his course as Aviation Machinist's Mate, he was assigned to duty in Hawaii, leaving there in late August for an advanced base.

Mr. and Mrs. Picquet also received a letter from their son, Eugene Picquet, Aviation Ordnance Mate, third class, stationed at the United States Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas, in which he told of being in a plane that crashed into Corpus Christi bay recently. The pilot received a broken arm and three broken ribs. Gene was uninjured.

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Russell Harrison, Headquarters and Service Company, 302nd Ordnance regiment, writes from Fort Ord, California, to Mr. and Mrs. Flem Cummins of Newton: "We have moved from the desert up the coast to Fort Ord about 150 miles south of San Francisco. The weather is cool and foggy most of the time and everyone has colds.

"For the first time in my life I've had to go to a hospital. I had the flu and ran a temperature of 101, so they shipped me off to the hospital last Wednesday night and I've been there ever since. I still run a temperature, so I have to stay in bed and they carry my meals to me. It's the first time I was ever able to have all my meals in bed.

"It is decidedly an Army hospital. They take all your clothes and you can keep only writing paper and a gas mask."

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Technical Corporal Millard Otto McCoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter McCoy of Willow Hill vicinity, who is stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, will observe his twenty-third birthday, January 15, 1943. Friends wishing to send cards will address Corporal Millard Otto McCoy, 148th QM Truck Company, APO 961, San Francisco, California. He wishes to thank those who sent him Christmas cards and packages. They were really welcome.

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Private Franklin D. Jones, son of Mrs. Anna Jones of Newton, who has been stationed at Miami Beach, Florida, has been transferred to Chilli-

cothe, Missouri. His address is Private Franklin D. Jones, TD, AAFTTC, Barracks B, Chillicothe, Missouri.

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Sergeant Clifford F. Huss, who is stationed at North Camp Polk, Louisiana, and Corporal LeRoy P. Huss, who is stationed at Pendelton, Oregon, are home on a furlough, visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Huss and family of near Sainte Marie.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ed Michl of near Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Gerald Michl, United States Navy, stating that he is in the hospital at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, with a broken collarbone. He was hurt while playing base ball recently.

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Marshall are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marshall and her mother, Mrs. Dora Douthit of Newton. He is on the U. S. S. New Jersey, huge new battleship, and will return December 26.

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Sergeant Edward Resch of Camp Pickett, Virginia, is visiting his mother, Mrs. Will Resch of Newton. When he returns he will go to Fort Benning, Georgia, to attend the Officers Candidate school there.

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Private Everett Hill left Wednesday for Camp Stewart, Georgia, after a furlough with his grand-mother, Mrs. Rebecca Race and uncle, Oral Race of Willow Hill, and his father, James Hill of Yale.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bert O. Yelton of Yale vicinity have received a letter from their son, Private Leonard H. Yelton, stating that his address is Company A, Fourth battalion, ERTC, Third platoon, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

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Staff Sergeant Lowell Lewis is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Lewis of Hunt City. He is in the Ninety-fifth division at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

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Private Joe H. Ireland, formerly of Willow Hill, but inducted from Palestine, is now with Company C, First Qm. T. R. C., Barracks 252, Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyoming.

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Seaman Daniel Turner, who is on the U. S. S. Pennsylvania in the Atlantic, has returned to his ship after a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Turner of Newton.

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When Johnny was little he loved soldiers and Mary loved painted dolls. . . . now they have grown up . . . Mary loves soldiers and Johnny loves painted dolls.